

Dear Members of the FCC

I am writing to inform you about the benefits I receive, as an independent trucker from XM Sattlite radio's local traffic and weather. (And I know many many truckers over the past few months who have installed or are planning to install either XM or Sirius in their trucks).

We spend the better part of every day on the road traveling from city to city. We just cannot take the time and attention away from our driving to play with the radio dial, constantly searching for another local station because we just drove out of range of the last one. It is a matter of safety.

We need accurate traffic and weather information to operate safely and ontime. And we need it when we need it, not just when the local stations decide to air it and if we are within their range when they do.

I cannot get the local stations (Sacramento and the Bay area) once I get into the foothills on either Hwy 50 or Interstate 80. Sattlite radio operates clean and clear, non-stop all along 50 and into the Tahoe Basin as well as into Reno. It also operates on Hwy 12 between Fairfield and Napa, where the local stations cut out.

The very idea of limiting XMs right to provide vital information just to protect local AM and FM stations which are not reliably providing that information in the first place, is absurd.

In general, protectionism blocks progress and insures the continuation of the medicore. But in this case protectionism would protect those who are not even making a decent attempt to provide the needed service in the first place.

Think about it. Local station owners have known for over a half century that folks in hilly areas cannot get their signals, yet they have done absolutely nothing to correct the problem. Along comes XM and suddenly they feel threatened. They want you to step in and force XM to stop meeting the needs of its customers just so they can continue not meeting the needs of their customers.

And finally, think about this: Local radio is free. XM radio costs money. If local radio were actually meeting my needs, why on eather would I spend money to get XM?

Please, do the right thing, and allow the forces of the marketplace protect the interests of the public rather than use the heavy hand of government to protect the interests of a small group of well heeled special interests.

Thank you, in advance, for your kind attention to this vital matter.

Sincerely,  
Jim Roseberry  
Woodland, Ca.